

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 202977
ORIGIN FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 A-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 IO-14 SIG-03 MMO-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY A/FBO:PJWALLS:WKB
APPROVED BY A/FBO:WLSLAYTON
-----039291 110832Z /15
R 102221Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 202977

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC

SUBJECT: FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

REF: A) STATE 163204 B) TURIN 298

REPRODUCED BELOW , FOR THE POST'S INFORMATION, ARE EXCERPTS
FROM TURIN 298 WHICH DEAL WITH THE USE OF FILTER-TYPE (GAS)
MASKS IN FIRE SITUATIONS.

QUOTE

1. THE DEPARTMENT'S WARNING (REFTEL A) UNTRAINED PERSONNEL
NOT TO ENDANGER THEMSELVES BY ATTEMPTING TO PERFORM THE
ACTIVITIES OF PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS SHOULD BE EXPANDED
TO ALERT POSTS OF THE DANGERS INHERENT IN USING FILTER TYPE
MASKS IN OTHER THAN SITUATIONS FOR WHICH THEY WERE DESIGNED
AND ISSUED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 202977

2. THE USE OF FILTER TYPE MASKS IN FIRE SITUATIONS SHOULD
BE PROSCRIBED.

3. THESE TYPES OF MASKS PROVIDE A MEASURE OF RELIEF FROM
RESPIRATORY DISCOMFORT NORMALLY EXPERIENCED IN A SMOKE
CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, BUT ARE SO DANGEROUS THAT MANY PRO-
FESSIONAL U.S. FIRE DEPTS HAVE STOPPED USING THEM. THE

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCONTINUED USING A FILTER TYPE MASK MADE EXPRESSLY FOR FIRE FIGHTING, AFTER SEVERAL DEATHS OF PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS AND FIRE OFFICERS WHO DESPITE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE MADE ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT. REGARDING THE CAPABILITIES OF FILTER TYPE MASKS, THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS WHICH CONTINUE TO UTILIZE HAVE ESTABLISHED STRICT REGULATIONS LIMITING THEIR USE TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC TYPES OF OPERATIONS.

4. THE USE OF SUCH MASKS IN OXYGEN DEFICIENT ATMOSPHERES (BELOW 16 PERCENT OXYGEN NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN LIFE) COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED AT FIRES IN ENCLOSED OR UNVENTILATED SPACES IS DEADLY.

5. AN ADDITIONAL DANGER IS THAT THE WEARER EXPERIENCES LITTLE RESPIRATORY DISCOMFORT WHICH NORMALLY LIMITS APPROACH TO AREAS OF POSSIBLE DANGER, AND IS ABLE TO REMAIN IN OR PENETRATE SUCH AREAS AFTER IT BECOMES UNTENABLE FOR AN UNMASKED PERSON.

6. IT IS THEREFORE EASY TO IMAGINE HOW HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND INNOVATIVE FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL, IF NOT SPECIFICALLY WARNED IN ADVANCE, MIGHT IN A FIRE SITUATION, REMEMBER THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS EQUIPMENT AT POST (GAS MASK) AND ATTEMPT TO USE IT FOR NON-DESIGN PURPOSE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 202977

TRAGIC RESULTS. UNQUOTE. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE202977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PJWALLS:WKB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0712
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaaczf.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 71bb5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN FBOE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 163204, 78 TURIN 298
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1775163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT
TAGS: ABLD, ASEC
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/71bb5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014